the Newsletter

Fall 2003

STAT USA

STAT-USA and Federal Depository Libraries

Keeping the Community Informed

In 1990, STAT-USA, then known as the Office of Business Analysis (OBA), partnered with the Government Printing Office (GPO) to provide Federal Depository Libraries (FDL) across the country with the National Trade Data Bank CD-ROM. Over the years, this joint venture has proven to be a very successful way to encourage use of STAT-USA products and services by the American public.

What Is A Federal Depository Library?

The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) was established by Congress to ensure that the American public had access to Governmental information and resources. Through the FDLP, GPO disseminates the largest volume of government publications and information in the world. As part of its mission, the FDLP disseminates information products from the three branches of the Government to selected libraries across the United States and its territories.

Libraries in the FDLP maintain these products and ensure the public has free access to the materials. There are over 1,200 libraries within the FDLP that provide electronic and supplemental government information.

Newsletter Editor, Terri Long, awaits a question at the FDL Conference and Council Meeting , October 22,2003. She was a keynote speaker.

Approximately 55% of the total are academic libraries and 20% are public. With one in each congressional district, they provide an easy way for the American public to gain access to various government products and vital data in their local community.

Lending A Hand

In 1990, then Director of Marketing, Bob Wendling, along with the STAT-USA Director, the late Ken Rogers, approached GPO about providing the FDLP with STAT-USA products to assist in informing the American public about international trade and the domestic economy. It began with a survey sent to almost 100 participating libraries entitled, "Assessing the Economic Bulletin Board." Then in October 1990, FDLP libraries received their very first copy of the National Trade Data Bank (NTDB) CD-ROM, which was later issued on a monthly basis.

Over the years, STAT-USA has supplied the FDLP with several products and services. From the National Economic, Social & Environmental (NESE) CD-ROM to STAT-USA/Internet and USA Trade *Online*, STAT-USA has continued to keep the FDLP up to date with the latest business, trade and economic information and technology. This partnership has been an important means of outreach

Learn more about our products and services online!

STAT-USA®/Internet™
Our flagship service, STAT-USA/Internet contains all of the information available on the National Trade Data Bank (NTDB)® as well as U.S. economic releases.

USA Trade® *Online*
Delivers the most current U.S. merchandise trade data available within minutes of its release.

EuroTrade *Online*™
A wonderful complement to USA Trade *Online*, this service offers export and import trade data from Eurostat, the official European statistical agency.

check out www.stat-usa.org

The International Trade Library
Revitalized !

Over the last few months, significant changes have been made to one of STAT-USA/Internet's largest databases, the **International Trade Library** (ITL). With meticulous care and attention to detail, we've been going through each individual information program area and evaluating its status and worth to STAT-USA/Internet customers.

We have discovered new programs through this process which we are adding to the database. Even some of the existing programs, such as the CIA World Factbook, have been expanded with additional supplemental reports. *(See Page 3 for more details)*.

This will be an ongoing project to ensure that all programs have the most current updates and information available. During this process, some programs have been removed, as it has been discovered that either the information is no longer relevant or that the program is no longer updated.

These decisions are not reached easily, and we apologize for any inconvenience the removal of these programs may cause. If you have any questions regarding a program that is no longer available, please send an email to **statusa@esa.doc.gov** with the subject **"ITL Program Request"**. A STAT-USA representative will be able to provide an explanation of why the program was removed, as well as provide a lead on who you might contact for specific questions about that program.

Additional STAT-USA Projects

STAT-USA is in the latter stages of completing the **STAT-USA Training Manual**. More than "just a computer manual", this will also be a great resource in assisting professors who have introduced STAT-USA/Internet and USA Trade Online into their curriculums, as well as for individual users looking to maximize the usefulness of STAT-USA products.

STAT-USA is also in the beginning stages of an entire site redesign for STAT-USA/Internet. We will be soliciting comments from customers as that project gets underway.

USA Trade Online Upgraded
You Spoke, We Listened!

In 2003, STAT-USA conducted focus groups and informal poll to determine how your thoughts on how STAT-USA products could be improved. Your comments played a major role in the plans for the upcoming changes to USA Trade *Online*.

The export/import merchandise trade web site provided by STAT-USA and the U.S. Bureau of the Census, is being overhauled to provide customers with more data and increased functionality. Since this is an extensive process, it is being broken down into two phases.

Phase One

This first phase, expected to be completed this spring, will bring **historical monthly data for 36 months**. This means historical trade data will now be available by month as well as by year for up to three years. No longer will customers have to archive historical monthly data on their own!

This added feature will also coincide with the implementation of an easier to use, more flexible commodity selection screen.

Phase Two

In the second phase more widespread changes will be made. The following data items are just a sample of the new statistical detail customers can expect to see:

· Port Data
· Method of Transportation (air/freight)
· Tariffs
· Unit Prices

Customers can also expect to see expanded import and export data series, which will include:

· Imports for Consumption
· Domestic Exports
· Foreign Exports

Due to the extensive nature of these new additions, the completion date for Phase Two is not until December 2004.

Customers worried about adjusting to such a significant change should remain calm. For a period of time, STAT-USA will carry the current version of USA Trade *Online* in addition to the new and improved one, providing customers time to get accustomed to the new web site.

for STAT-USA. The FDL community has done an outstanding job of informing the American about STAT-USA and our unique information products.

Looking Forward

STAT-USA is constantly involved in working with depository librarians to make sure that our products are effective tools in providing Government information. In October 2003, STAT-USA representatives attended the **Federal Depository Library Conference and Council Meeting** in Northern Virginia. During the session, Terri Long, editor of the STAT-USA Newsletter and Senior Marketing Associate, previewed some new changes that are on the horizon for **USA Trade *Online*** and

STAT-USA Director, Forrest Williams, takes a question from the crowd at the FDL Conference and Council.

STAT-USA/Internet, as well as some other new initiatives. In the meantime, STAT-USA continues to provide technical support on our products through phone support and training materials to FDLs. We also offer an occasional on-site training session.

We have discovered that Federal Depository Librarians are our most effective means for getting business, trade and economic information into the hands of the American public. We are committed to supporting Federal Depository Librarians through education and training. The better they are able to use and understand STAT-USA products and services, the better able they are in assisting the American public.

For more information about the Federal Depository Library Program or to find if your library qualifies as an FDL, please contact the Lisa Russell of the Government Printing Office at 202-512-2010 ext 33281.

New and Expanded Reports!

The CIA World Factbook Expanded!
STAT-USA now offers the "comparative tables" of this popular publication. They are ranked order tables listing countries of the world by a variety of economic indexes, such as GDP, oil exports and military expenditures. These reports can be located on the GLOBUS page of STAT-USA/Internet under the new header: **SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS**.

NEW! World Bank Publications!
The International Trade Library now features the economic report, **Global Development Finance** and the trade related report, **Legal Aspects of International Trade**. These reports are a result of the continuing effort of STAT-USA to include the latest in economic and trade data from a variety of sources.

Digital Economy 2003 has been updated and is now available in the **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS** area,.